



## Enoch Arden

Poem by Alfred Tennyson | Music by Richard Strauss

John Bell *narrator* / Simon Tedeschi *piano*

Two of Australia's finest storytellers, actor **John Bell** and pianist **Simon Tedeschi**, break new ground with this new recording of the great melodrama ***Enoch Arden*** – a deeply moving tale of love, loss, redemption and shipwreck, told through spoken word and solo piano.

*Enoch Arden* depicts, in Tedeschi's own words, "extremities of emotional pathos in which an everyman is thrust into a maelstrom of betrayal, longing, regret and often, madness." It is the story of three childhood friends, Enoch Arden, Philip Ray and Annie Lee. Enoch and Annie marry and start a family, but after Enoch is shipwrecked on an island for ten years, Annie agrees to marry Philip – believing Enoch to be dead. When Enoch returns, he learns of Annie and Philip's relationship, and of their child together, and chooses to live in seclusion, heartbroken for his own fate but blissful in their happiness.

The poem *Enoch Arden* was published in 1864 while Alfred, Lord Tennyson was Queen Victoria's Poet Laureate; Strauss wrote a piano score to accompany its recitation in 1897. Its most famous recording was a limited-edition release by Glenn Gould with Claude Rains in 1962. This new recording presents a rare insight into the pathos of Enoch Arden's story, an exploration of humanity just as relevant in 2017 as when it was first written.

This album and subsequent national tour marks Tedeschi and Bell's first collaboration. "I wanted to do *Enoch*," says John Bell, "because I love working with musicians; I love being up close and watching their technique and feeling the visceral presence of the instruments. I've admired Simon for a long time; he's a bit of an entertainer and showman as well as being a great pianist."

On this album, *Enoch Arden* is paired with the stunningly evocative ***Songs of Dawn*** (Gesänge der Frühe) for solo piano by Robert Schumann. Written in 1853, towards the end of the composer's tragic life, the five songs are, Tedeschi notes, "devotional one minute, white-hot the next, and then heartbreakingly lyrical, ending with a hymn-like movement that, to me, is as palpable a winding-down of the human spirit as Beethoven's last Piano Sonata."

**John Bell** is one of our generation's foremost actors, particularly renowned for his performances of Shakespeare and for founding the Bell Shakespeare company. He was named one of Australia's National Living Treasures in 1997. **Simon Tedeschi**'s solo and concerto performances have seen him hailed by critics worldwide, including as "true greatness" by the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

For further information, please contact:

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## TRACKLISTING

RICHARD STRAUSS  
1–8 **Enoch Arden**  
*Poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson*

ROBERT SCHUMANN  
9–13 **Songs of Dawn (Gesänge der Frühe)**

**John Bell** *narrator* [1-8]  
**Simon Tedeschi** *piano*

Recorded May 2017 in the Eugene Goossens Hall, ABC Ultimo

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## 2017 TOUR DATES

Wed June 14, 7:30pm at His Majesty's Theatre, Perth (WA)  
Fri June 16, 7:30pm at Avoca Beach Picture Theatre (NSW)  
Sun July 2, 12:30pm at Four Winds Windsong Pavilion, Bermagui (NSW)  
Tue July 4, 6:30pm at Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Brisbane (QLD)  
Sun July 9, 3pm at Utzon Music Series, Sydney Opera House (NSW)  
Sat July 15, 1:30pm & 7:30pm at Adelaide Festival Centre (SA)

**For performance enquiries including 2018**, please contact:  
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**Album available 16 June 2017**  
**1CD | Digital Album | ABC 481 5558**



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